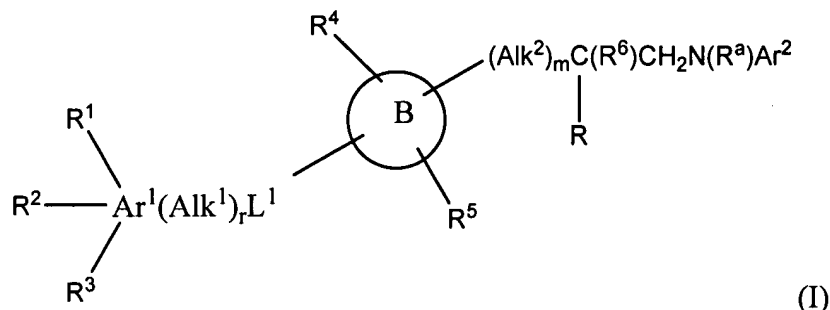


Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A compound of the formula:



wherein

Ar¹ is an aromatic or heteroaromatic group;

R¹, R², R³, R⁴ and R⁵ which may be the same or different is each an atom or group -L²(Alk³)_tL³(R⁷)_u in which L² and L³ which may be the same or different is each covalent bond or a linker atom or group, t is zero or the integer 1, u is an integer 1, 2 or 3, Alk³ is an aliphatic or heteroaliphatic chain and R⁷ is a hydrogen or halogen atom or a group selected from alkyl, -OR⁸, where R⁸ is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted alkyl group, -SR⁸, -NR⁸R⁹, where R⁹ is as just defined for R⁸ and may be the same or different, -NO₂, -CN, -CO₂R⁸, -SO₃H, -SOR⁸, -SO₂R⁸, -OCO₂R⁸, -CONR⁸R⁹, -OCONR⁸R⁹, -CSNR⁸R⁹, -COR⁸, -OCOR⁸, -N(R⁸)COR⁹, -N(R⁸)CSR⁹, -SO₂N(R⁸)(R⁹), -N(R⁸)SO₂R⁹, -N(R⁸)CON(R⁹)(R¹⁰), where R¹⁰ is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted alkyl group, -N(R⁸)CSN(R⁹)(R¹⁰) or -N(R⁸)SO₂N(R⁹)(R¹⁰);

Alk¹ is an optionally substituted aliphatic or heteroaliphatic chain;

L¹ is a covalent bond or a linker atom or group;

Alk² is a straight or branched alkylene chain;

m is zero or an integer 1;

R⁶ is a hydrogen atom or a methyl group;

r is zero or the integer 1;

R is a carboxylic acid (-CO₂H);

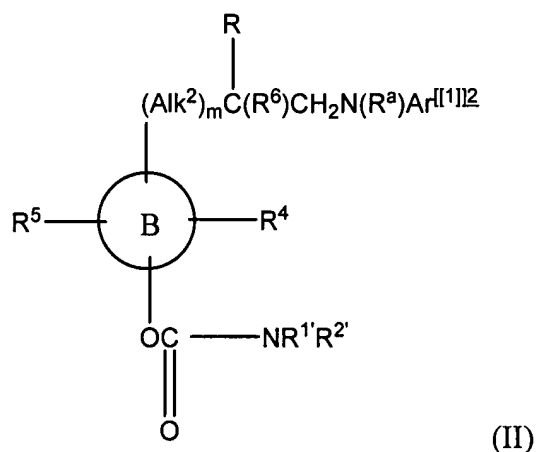
R^a is a hydrogen atom or a methyl group;

Ar^2 is an optionally substituted aromatic or heteroaromatic group;

B is a ~~nitrogen-containing heteroaryl group~~ pyridyl group;

and a salt, solvate, hydrate or N-Oxide thereof.

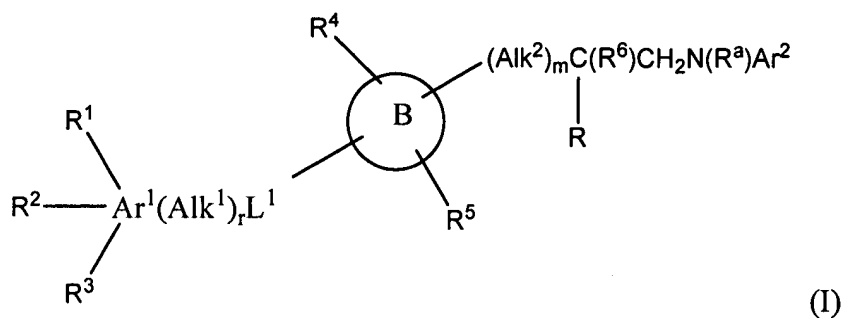
Claim 2 (previously presented): A compound of the formula:



wherein R , R^a , R^4 , R^5 , R^6 , Alk^2 , B , m and Ar^2 are as defined above and $R^{1'}$ and $R^{2'}$ are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, alkenyl, substituted alkenyl, aryl, cycloalkyl, substituted cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, heteroaryl or $R^{1'}$ and $R^{2'}$, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, are joined to form an optionally substituted heterocyclic ring; and a salt, solvate, hydrate or N-Oxide thereof.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The compound according to Claim 2, wherein $R^{1'}$ and $R^{2'}$ are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, alkenyl, substituted alkenyl, cycloalkyl, substituted cycloalkyl, or $R^{1'}$ and $R^{2'}$, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, are joined to form an optionally substituted heterocyclic ring provided that said substituted alkyl, substituted alkenyl and substituted cycloalkyl do not carry an aryl, substituted aryl, heteroaryl or substituted heteroaryl group.

Claim 4 (currently amended): A compound of the formula:



wherein

Ar¹ is an aromatic or heteroaromatic group;

R¹ and R², R³, R⁴ and R⁵ which may be the same or different is each an atom or group -L²(Alk³)_tL³(R⁷)_u in which L² and L³ which may be the same or different is each a covalent bond or a linker atom or group, t is zero or the integer 1, u is an integer 1, 2 or 3, Alk³ is an aliphatic or heteroaliphatic chain and R⁷ is a hydrogen or halogen atom or a group selected from alkyl, -OR⁸, where R⁸ is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted alkyl group, -SR⁸, -NR⁸R⁹, where R⁹ is as just defined for R⁸ and may be the same or different, -NO₂, -CN, -CO₂R⁸, -SO₃H, -SOR⁸, -SO₂R⁸, -OCO₂R⁸, -CONR⁸R⁹, -OCONR⁸R⁹, -CSNR⁸R⁹, -COR⁸, -OCOR⁸, -N(R⁸)COR⁹, -N(R⁸)CSR⁹, -SO₂N(R⁸)(R⁹), -N(R⁸)SO₂R⁹, -N(R⁸)CON(R⁹)(R¹⁰), where R¹⁰ is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted alkyl group, -N(R⁸)CSN(R⁹)(R¹⁰) or -N(R⁸)SO₂N(R⁹)(R¹⁰);

Alk¹ is an optionally substituted aliphatic or heteroaliphatic chain;

L¹ is a covalent bond or a linker atom or group;

Alk² is a straight or branched alkylene chain;

m is zero or an integer 1;

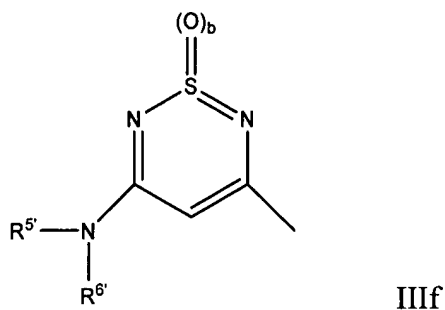
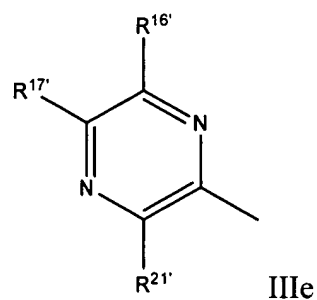
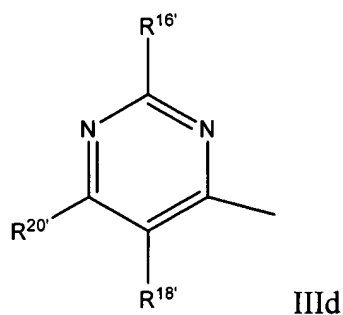
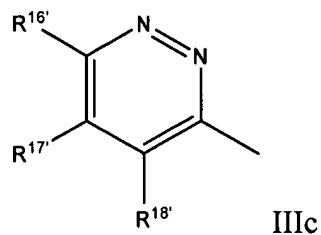
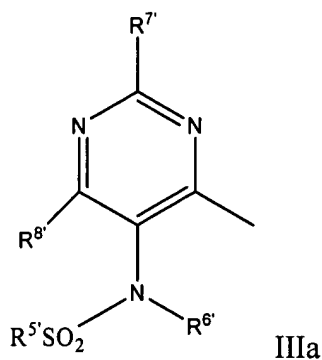
R⁶ is a hydrogen atom or a methyl group;

r is zero or the integer 1;

R is a carboxylic acid (-CO₂H);

R^a is a hydrogen atom or a methyl group;

Ar² is selected from the group consisting of moieties of formula IIIa, IIIc, IIId, IIIe and IIIf:



where $R^{5'}$ is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, substituted alkyl, alkenyl, substituted alkenyl, aryl, substituted aryl, cycloalkyl, substituted cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, substituted cycloalkenyl, heterocyclic, substituted heterocyclic, heteroaryl and substituted heteroaryl;

$R^{6'}$ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, cycloalkyl, substituted cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, substituted cycloalkenyl, heterocyclic, substituted heterocyclic, aryl, substituted aryl, heteroaryl, substituted heteroaryl, and $-SO_2R^{10'}$ where $R^{10'}$ is

selected from the group consisting of alkyl, substituted alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, substituted cycloalkenyl, heterocyclic, substituted heterocyclic, aryl, substituted aryl, heteroaryl, substituted heteroaryl;

$R^{7'}$ and $R^{8'}$ are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen alkyl, substituted alkyl, cycloalkyl, substituted cycloalkyl, aryl, substituted aryl, heteroaryl, substituted heteroaryl, heterocyclic, substituted heterocyclic and halogen;

$R^{16'}$ and $R^{17'}$ are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, alkoxy, substituted alkoxy, amino, substituted amino, cycloalkyl, substituted cycloalkyl, aryl, substituted aryl, heteroaryl, substituted heteroaryl, heterocyclic, substituted heterocyclic and halogen; and

$R^{18'}$ is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, substituted alkyl, alkoxy, substituted alkoxy, amino, substituted amino, cycloalkyl, substituted cycloalkyl, aryl, substituted aryl, heteroaryl, substituted heteroaryl, heterocyclic and substituted heterocyclic;

$R^{20'}$ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, alkoxy, substituted alkoxy, cycloalkyl, substituted cycloalkyl, aryl, substituted aryl, heteroaryl, substituted heteroaryl, heterocyclic, substituted heterocyclic and halogen;

$R^{21'}$ is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, substituted alkyl, alkoxy, substituted alkoxy, amino, substituted amino, cycloalkyl, substituted cycloalkyl, aryl, substituted aryl, heterocyclic and substituted heterocyclic;

b is 1 or 2;

B is a ~~nitrogen-containing group~~ pyridyl group;

and an enantiomer, a diastereomer or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 5 (original): A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient and an effective amount of a compound according to any of Claims 1-4.

Claim 6 (original): A method for binding VLA-4 in a biological sample which method comprises contacting the biological sample with a compound according to any of Claim 1-4 under conditions wherein said compound binds to VLA-4.

Claim 7 (canceled)

Claim 8 (canceled)

Claim 9 (previously presented) A method for treating an inflammatory condition mediated by VLA-4 in a mammalian patient, which method comprises administering to said patient a therapeutically effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition of Claim 5, wherein said inflammatory condition is selected from the group consisting of inflammatory arthritis, multiple sclerosis, allograft rejection, diabetes, inflammatory dermatoses, asthma and inflammatory bowel disease.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 9, wherein said inflammatory condition is asthma.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A compound according to Claim 1, wherein

Ar¹ is an aryl or heteroaryl group;

R¹ and R² are the same or different, selected from the group consisting of a halogen atom, a methyl group, a halomethyl group, a methoxy group, and a halomethoxy group;

R³ is a hydrogen atom;

(Alk¹)_nL¹ is -CONH-;

B is a ~~nitrogen-containing heteroaryl group selected from the group consisting of pyridyl, pyrrolyl, indolyl, pyridazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, 1-oxo-1,2,5-thiadiazolyl and 1,1-dioxo-1,2,5-thiadiazolyl~~ group;

Alk² is absent or -CH₂-;

m is zero or the integer 1;

R is a carboxylic acid (-CO₂H);

R⁶ and R^a are each a hydrogen atom; and

Ar² is an optionally substituted monocyclic nitrogen-containing heteroaromatic group selected from the group consisting of pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, pyridazinyl and triazinyl groups.

Claim 12. (currently amended): The compound of Claim 11, wherein

Ar¹ is a ~~pyridinyl~~ pyridyl group; and

R¹ [[R1]] and R² [[R2]] are independently selected from the group consisting of fluorine, chlorine, -CF₃ [[-CF3]], -CHF₂, -CH₂F, -OCF₃, -OCHF₂, and -OCH₂F.